

CLAIMS

1. Concentrated, low-viscosity surface-active preparations containing

(a) 25 to 50% by weight of amphoteric or zwitterionic surfactants and

5 (b) 0.01 to 5% by weight of alkali metal sulfates,

with the proviso that the quantities add up to 100% by weight with water and optionally other electrolyte salts.

2. Preparations as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the
10 preparations contain amphoteric or zwitterionic surfactants selected from the group consisting of alkyl betaines, alkyl amidobetaines, aminopropionates, aminoglycinates, imidazolinium betaines and sulfobetaines.

3. Preparations as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that
15 the preparations contain alkyl betaines corresponding to formula (I):



in which R^1 represents alkyl and/or alkenyl groups containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms, R^2 represents hydrogen or alkyl groups containing 1 to 4
25 carbon atoms, R^3 represents alkyl groups containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $q1$ is a number of 1 to 6 and Z is an alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal or ammonium.

4. Preparations as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the preparations contain alkyl amidobetaines
30 corresponding to formula (II):



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in which R^4CO is an aliphatic acyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms and 0 or 1 to 3 double bonds, R^5 is hydrogen or represents alkyl groups containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^6 represents alkyl groups containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms, q_2 is a number of 1 to 6, q_3 is a number of 1 to 3 and Z is an alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal or ammonium.

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5. Preparations as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the preparations contain sodium sulfate.

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6. Preparations as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the preparations have a pH of 6 to 9.

7. Preparations as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the preparations have a pH of 1 to 6.

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8. Preparations as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that they have a Brookfield viscosity, as measured in an RVT viscosimeter (20°C, spindle 1, 10 r.p.m.), of less than 5,000 mPas.

9. A process for the production of concentrated, low-viscosity surface-active preparations, characterized in that fatty amines or fatty acid amidoamides are betainized with halocarboxylic acids or alkali metal salts thereof in the presence of alkali metal sulfates.

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10. A process for the production of concentrated, low-viscosity surface-active preparations, characterized in that alkali metal sulfates are added to water-containing pastes of alkyl betaines and/or alkyl amidobetaines.

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11. The use of alkali metal sulfates for reducing the viscosity of concentrated water-based preparations of amphoteric or zwitterionic surfactants.